

Birds Do it! RECYCLE!

Picky, Picky

Scientists have no idea exactly why birds choose certain objects to build their nests. But scientists know that the main reason birds build nests is to keep their babies safe, warm and healthy.

Chicks grow faster and are healthier when they are warm. They also learn to fly and leave the nest sooner than birds without warm homes.

What A Yarn

Yarn is big on an oriole's shopping list when nest building. Scientists are still trying to figure out why so many birds choose white yarn over other colors for nest building.

Scientists think that the white stuff reminds birds of cotton fluff they find in the wild.

Do It Naturally

Even though birds can help us recycle some of our junk by using it to build nests, they also need to use lots of natural materials. Twigs, long grass, moss, dried bark, spider's silk and mud are some of the natural ingredients that are good for nests, too.

You can make a collection box of stuff to leave for birds so they can help themselves. Hang a small plastic box with holes (like the ones berries come in) on a tree branch. Stuff the box loosely with nest building goodies. Hang the box on a tree and watch birds climb on board to pick through the junk to find their treasures.

For the Birds!

Stop! Don't throw all that garbage out! Give some to the birds. Look and see how a bird can reuse your old junk to help decorate and warm a new home.

If you collect paper, cloth, string or paper clips, your friends might call you a pack rat. But if you're a bird, you're just building the coolest house in the neighborhood!





Beautiful Insects



How is a butterfly like a moth? Both are flying insects with either brightly colored wings or wings with very interesting designs. Both sip nectar from flowers using tubes that curl up when not in use.

Both moths and butterflies also develop in four stages: egg, caterpillar, cocoon or chrysalis, and adult. In fact, butterflies and moths are so similar that they are the only insects whose wings are covered by scales.

However, butterflies and moths are also very different. Some of those differences are plain and simple. Butterflies are the beautifully colored summertime insects flying from flower to flower during the day. Moths, on the other hand, are the beautifully colored summertime insects flying around at night. Often, moths will fly circles around streetlights because they are drawn to any form of illumination.

Another difference between butterflies and moths is the way they position their wings while resting. Butterflies hold their wings vertically above their backs, like hands pressed together, palm to palm. Moths, on the other hand, generally spread their wings horizontally to their sides, as if drying them in moonlight.

Finally, there is one difference between butterflies and moths that is not quite so easily seen. The antennae of butterflies are plain thread-like strands ending in little bulbs while the antennae of moths look like thin feathers with no bulbs at the tips.

Butterflies and moths are two of nature's most diverse and beautiful insects. How lucky for us that during the summer we can see one or the other of them during the day or at night.

The Lion and the Mouse

A lion had been out hunting all morning. He was hot and tired, so he lay down in the shade of a tree. He soon fell asleep.

A mouse happened to be walking by. He had never been so close to a lion. The mouse was curious. He went quietly up to the lion and looked at it.



"What an amazing beast!" said the mouse. "I must take a closer look." The next thing the mouse knew, he was walking up and down on top of the lion.

The lion suddenly woke up. He threw his big paw over the mouse and held him tightly.

"What have I here?" roared the lion. "Why, I have a mouse! Well, a mouse is not much of a meal. But it is better than nothing at all."

The lion opened his great mouth to eat the mouse.

"Please, don't eat me!" begged the mouse. "Please let me go. If you do, I will never forget it. The time may come when I can help you."

The lion smiled. "Help me?" he said. "How could a little fellow like you help someone like me?"

The lion laughed. He laughed louder and louder. The idea seemed so silly! By now he was feeling happy. He lifted his paw, and the mouse scampered away.

Many months went by. One day the lion was walking in the woods. He came to a lake. He started to take a drink of water. Just then the lion smelled something. The lion knew that smell! It meant that people were near!

Suddenly the lion heard voices. "Get him! Get that lion!" called the voices.

The lion turned to run, but it was too late. He felt a strong rope around his neck and another around his body.

"Tie the lion to a tree!" a hunter cried out. "We can get the lion later!"

They dragged the lion across the ground. They tied the lion to a tree. Then the hunters went on their way.

The lion roared. His roar was very loud. The mouse was passing by. He said, "That sounds like my friend, the lion."

The mouse soon came upon the lion. Two strong ropes held the lion to a tree.

"Well, well, well," the mouse to the lion. "You seem to be in trouble." The lion looked at the mouse. He wondered if the mouse was making fun of him.

Then the mouse said, "Don't you remember me? You once trapped me with your paw. But then you let me go."

"Oh, yes," said the lion. "Now I remember."

The mouse went on. "I said that I might help you one day." With that, the mouse put his sharp teeth against one rope. He gnawed and gnawed until he cut through it. Then he hopped to the other rope and gnawed right through it.

The lion was free!

"Thank you, friend, for saving my life," called the lion as he hurried away.

The Swing

by Robert Louis Stevenson

How do you like to go up in a swing,
Up in the air so blue?
Oh, I do think it's the pleasantest thing
Ever a child can do!

Up in the air and over the wall,
Till I can see so wide,
River and trees and cattle and all
Over the countryside--

Till I look down on the garden green,
Down on the roof so brown--
Up in the air I go flying again,
Up in the air and down!



<p style="text-align: center;">Reading Mini-Assessment Grade 3 LA.3.1.7.6 Form A</p>

Name _____ **Date** _____

Directions: Read the passages and choose the correct answer.

1. What topic is covered in the article “Birds Do It! RECYCLE!”?
 - A. uses for yarn
 - B. recycling in nature
 - C. keeping chicks healthy
 - D. decorating with scraps

2. What is the main topic of the article “Beautiful Insects”?
 - A. what butterflies and moths look like
 - B. the stages of butterflies and moths
 - C. why butterflies and moths are interesting
 - D. how butterflies and moths are alike and different

3. What is the best lesson that can be learned from “The Lion and the Mouse”?
 - A. Listen to the ideas of others.
 - B. A kind act is never wasted.
 - C. Good friends are hard to find.
 - D. Not everyone can be trusted.

4. What is the theme of the poem “The Swing”?
 - A. Swinging on a swing is enjoyable.
 - B. Seeing distant things is interesting.
 - C. Playing outside on a nice day is fun.
 - D. Flying through the sky is exciting.

Reading Mini-Assessment Grade 3
LA.3.1.7.6 Form A

ANSWER KEY

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Item #	Answer
1.	B
2.	D
3.	B
4.	A